



Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office 2003 Firework Injuries and Fires

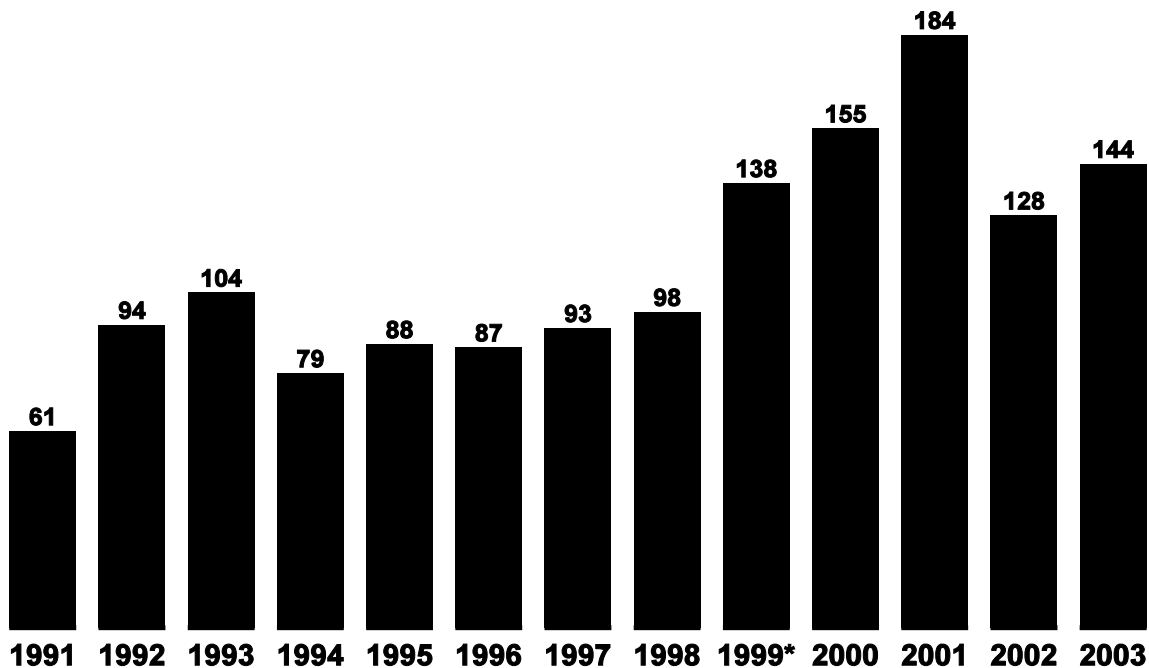
Hospitals reported 144 firework-related injuries in 2003 - a 12 percent increase from 2002. Over 80 percent of these injuries occurred between July 1-5 with more than half of the injuries happening between 9 PM and midnight.

Over 40 percent of the injuries happened in Omaha and Lincoln where most fireworks are illegal and Lincoln allows a shorter time period for shooting fireworks than the rest of the state.

The severity of the injuries also increased. The majority of injuries were again first and second-degree burns. This year most injuries involved the fingers and hands with the eyes coming in second.

The following graph shows the number of injuries for the last 13 years.

Firework Injuries



*1999 total includes nine injuries during the millennium firework season.

The majority of people injured were either in the vicinity of the firework when it went off or holding the device when it discharged. Fortunately the number of people injured at public displays decreased slightly from 9 in 2002 to 7. Public displays are still the safest way to view fireworks.

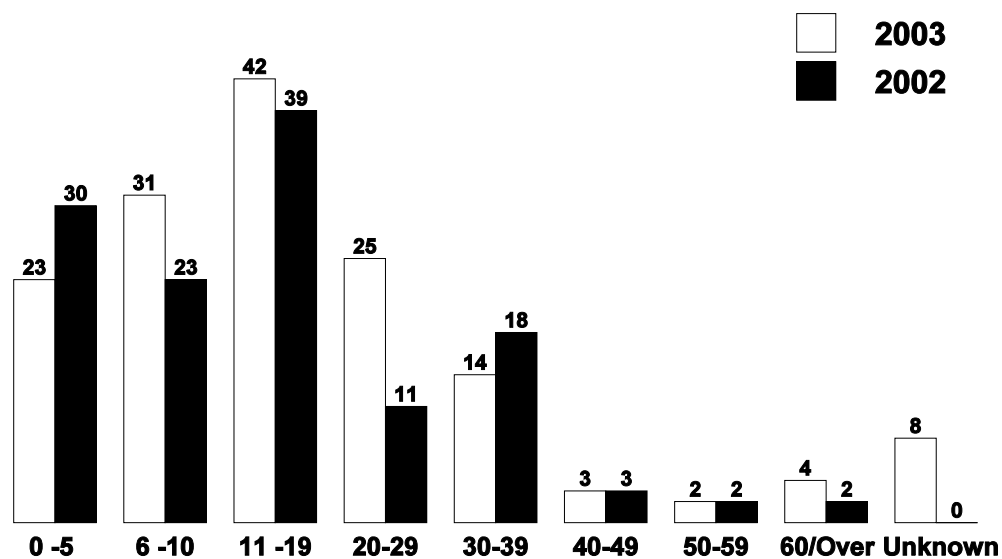
Firecrackers continue to cause the most injuries The number of injuries from illegal fireworks (M-80's; cherry bombs; bottle, sky and missile rockets) increased 4 from 2002 to 19 in 2003. The number of injuries from smoke bombs saw the largest increase, more than doubling in 2003 to 11.

DEVICE	2002	2003	DEVICE	2002	2003
Firecracker	25	33	Cherry Bomb	1	1
M-80	7	7	Smoke Bomb	5	11
Base Fountain	4	7	Party Popper	1	1
Cone Fountain	1	1	Wheel	1	1
Roman Candle	15	16	Sky Rocket	2	1
Bottle Rocket	4	8	Missile Rocket	1	2
Parachute	1	0	Sparkler	12	15
Ground Spinner	0	0	Homemade	7	6
Other	16	16	Unknown	16	11

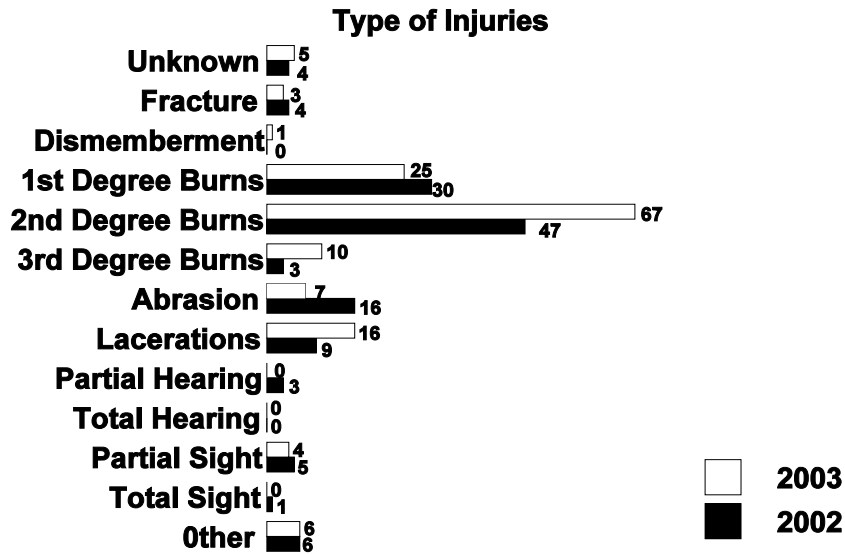
Children and young adults (age 19 and under) continue to receive the most injuries of any age group - 67 percent. The number of people ages 20-29 who were injured more than doubled in 2003. Most injuries continue to happen to males (104) than females (32). The sex of eight injured people were not given.

Firework Injuries

by Age

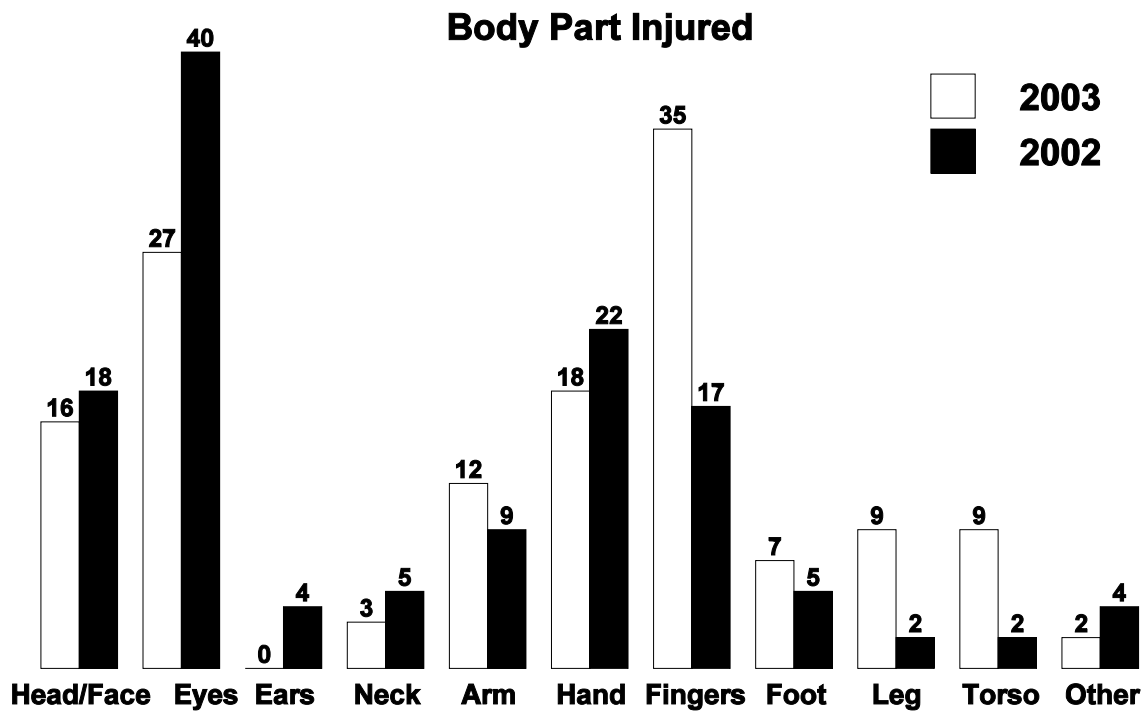


Firework Injuries



This year more injuries occurred to the fingers than any other body part. This is partly due to the increase in the number of people holding a device at the time it discharged.

Firework Injuries



Some reasons for the injuries are listed below.

- * 5 year old picked up smoke bomb during burning phase
- * 6 year old placed firecracker in mud and lit the fuse-firecracker exploded into eye.

- * Artillery shell went up short way-fell-exploded on patient. Multi burns to clothing and body and corneal abrasion.

- * Blew up sooner than expected.

- * Bundled sparklers together and they exploded

- * Debris from something exploding in air.

- * Device held towards victim.

- * Homemade smoke bombs.

- * Parental negligence.

- * Stepped on sparkler.

- * Rocket tube fell over and aimed right at patient when it went off.

- * Took powder out of device then lit powder.

- * In pocket.

- * Held mortar tube. Firework blew through bottom hitting patient in eye. Corneal abrasion/burn 1st and 2nd degree to periorbital area..

- * Firework debris fell out of sky.

Firework Injuries



PRELIMINARY FIRE LOSS INFORMATION

Of the fire reports received as of August 31, 2003 15 fires were reported. The majority of these were grass fires. No injuries, deaths or dollar loss were reported for these fires. In 2002, 104 fires were reported accounting for \$76,625 in damage. No injuries or deaths were reported.

INJURIES BY CITY AND COUNTY

CITY	NUMBER		COUNTY	NUMBER
Beatrice	3		Adams	4
Bellevue	2		Buffalo	3
Bennet	1		Butler	1
Blue Springs	2		Chase	1
Boys Town	1		Cherry	1
Branched Oak	1		Clay	1
Broken Bow	2		Custer	2
Brownville	1		Dodge	6
Burwell	4		Douglas	37
Ceresco	1		Gage	7
Champion	1		Garfield	4
Clarks	2		Howard	1
Columbus	6		Keith	1
Cortland	1		Kimball	1
David City	1		Lancaster	29
Douglas	1		Lincoln	4
Elkhorn	2		Madison	1
Fremont	6		Merrick	2
Grand Island	5		Nemaha	1
Harvard	1		Otoe	6
Hastings	4		Pawnee	1
Hickman	1		Platte	6
Kearney	3		Polk	1
Kimball	1		Sarpy	4
Lincoln	26		Saunders	2
Macy	1		Scotts Bluff	5
Nebraska City	5		Seward	2
Newman Grove	1		Thurston	5
North Platte	4		York	1
Ogallala	1		Unknown	2
Omaha	34			
Papillion	2			
Pawnee City	1			
Scottsbluff	2			
Seward	1			
St Libory	1			
Stromsburg	1			
Utica	1			
Valentine	1			
Wahoo	1			
Walthill	1			
Winnebago	3			
Wymore	1			
York	1			
Unknown	2			